

Y. Kubota et al.
U.S. Serial No. 09/506,033
Page 4 of 5

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the notification of allowable subject matter, i.e., that claims 2, 3, 20, and 21 are merely objected to, and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claims 1-3, 18-21, 37-53, and 58-64 are pending in the subject application. Claims 37-53 and 58-64 were withdrawn from consideration as being directed to non-elected subject matter.

The specification was objected to for referring to specific claim numbers on page 113, line 11; page 115, line 23; and page 119, line 5. The specification has been amended to overcome these objections. No new matter is added. Withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 18, and 19 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,437,768 to Kubota et al. (hereinafter "Kubota") in view of U.S. Patent 5,646,642 to Mackawa et al. ("Mackawa"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

It should be noted that U.S. Patent 6,437,768 to Kubota et al. ("Kubota") is not prior art to the subject application under 35 USC 102(e)/103. The Kubota reference does not qualify as prior art under 35 USC 103(c), and therefore cannot be used in a rejection of claims under 35 USC 102(e)/103. The subject application and Kubota have the same assignee, *Sharp Kabushiki Kaisha* of Osaka, Japan and were commonly owned at the time the invention was made. See the attached Patent Assignment recordation information from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office for both the subject application and the Kubota reference, indicating the same assignee *Sharp Kabushiki Kaisha*. That is, the subject application and the Kubota reference were, at the time the invention was made, owned by Sharp Kabushiki Kaisha. Therefore, under MPEP 706.02(l)(2), Kubota is not prior art to the subject application under 35 USC 103(c).

Y. Kubota et al.
U.S. Serial No. 09/506,033
Page 5 of 5

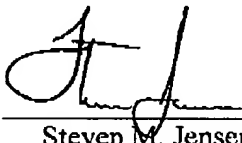
It is believed the application is in condition for immediate allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

Applicants believe that additional fees are not required for consideration of the within Amendment. However, if for any reason a fee is required, a fee paid is inadequate or credit is owed for any excess fee paid, you are hereby authorized and requested to charge Deposit Account No. **04-1105**.

Respectfully submitted,

EDWARDS & ANGELL, LLP

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